



Arizona State Board of Nursing

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR APPLICANTS THAT FAILED NCLEX®

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1. What should I do to pass NCLEX® next time?

The Board recommends that you contact your nursing program and inform them of your result. Please share your candidate profile with them so that they may assess your performance on the exam. All nursing programs in Arizona have informed the Board that they want to help you succeed on the next try. Your program has resources that you may be able access at little or no cost. The program is also aware of your overall performance and may be able to use that information along with your candidate profile to help you devise a plan for success.

There are NCLEX® review courses available at some community colleges and on the Internet. If you search the web with Google using the keyword NCLEX®, you will encounter many resources. When selecting a review program, most students benefit from seek a program that gives the learner a diagnostic profile of their strengths and weaknesses, explains the rationale for the correct answers and provides remediation materials.

If you work in health care while you are awaiting testing, use the work experience to critically examine nursing practice: note the medications and treatments given to patients, how the patient's diagnosis relates to the nursing care and how nurses make decisions.

If you have test anxiety, a visit to a professional counsellor or psychologist may help you deal with the re-testing situation. Most applicants find that anxiety will decrease with repeated exposure to NCLEX®-type questions.

2. How many questions did I miss?

Everyone that takes NCLEX® misses about half of the questions. The test is designed to find a candidates ability level when 50% of the questions are answered correctly. To learn more about NCLEX®, please consult your candidate bulletin or access the website of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing at www.ncsbn.org.

3. How close was I to passing?

You received a candidate profile that tells you how close to passing you were on each area of the test plan.

4. When can I re-take the exam?

You may apply to retake the exam at any time, but you must wait 45 days between exams. This length of time is necessary to give applicants items that they have not received on a previous exam.

5. I failed the RN exam. Can I take the PN exam?

Yes. In Arizona, candidates that were eligible to take the RN and failed may take the PN exam. A separate application and fee to the Board is required along with a separate application and fee to the testing company. You do not need to resubmit fingerprints, unless they are over two (2) years old, or proof of program completion.

6. Can I review my test so I can see my mistakes?

Yes, there is a Review and Challenge procedure. To review the items you missed, you must apply through the Board and pay a \$400 fee to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. This reflects the actual cost of retrieving the exam items you missed and the time at the test center. If you choose to review your exam, you cannot register to take the exam again until the review is completed. The items that you see in a review will never be administered to you again. Most persons who review their exam do not find it helpful and discover that they misread many questions. For more information contact me at prandolph@azbn.gov.

7. What are my chances of passing NCLEX® on a repeat exam?

For the RN exam, about 70% of US educated candidates pass on the second time and 60% of candidates passed on the third time. After the third attempt, the passing rates diminish.

For the PN exam, about 80% of US educated candidates passed on the second try, 70% on the third try, and 60% on the fourth try. After the fourth attempt, the passing rates diminish.

8. How many times may I take the NCLEX®?

In Arizona, you may take NCLEX® as many times as necessary to successfully pass. However, if at the time of licensure, has been more than 2 years since you completed the clinical portion of your nursing program, you will be required to take and pass a nurse

refresher course. You will receive a temporary license for the refresher course only to enable you to complete the clinical portion of the course.

1o. Could you go over the fees for retaking the exam?

As of June 2015, the fees for retaking the exam are:

1. **\$100** for reapplying to the Arizona State Board Nursing to re-take the exam if your application has not expired, or \$300 for re-applying for licensure if your application has expired; and
2. **\$200** to the testing company to re-take the test.

You do not need to send proof of graduation or a fingerprint card if your fingerprints are less than two (2) years old. Please check your application status on the Arizona State Board of Nursing website at www.azbn.gov.

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